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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04626 161145 Z

46
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 SIL-01 LAB-06

DOTE-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 AID-20 L-03 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 /107 W
---------- 079170
R 160950 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3161

UNCLAS TOKYO 4626

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRN, US, JA
SUBJECT: US- JAPAN SHIPPING MEETING, TOKYO, APRIL 12-13
- PRESS COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY. MAJOR JAPANESE SHIPPING TRADE JOURNALS
AND SOME DAILYPAPERS CARRIED ACCOUNTS OVER WEEK- END OF
FMC/ MOT SHIPPING TALKS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF
COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.

2 . SHIPPING AND TRADE NEWS QUOTED MRS. BENTLEY AS SAY-
ING MEETING WAS QTE GENERALLY GOOD UNQTE AND NOTED THAT
SHE HAD AVOIDED MAKING SUBSTANTIVE COMMNENTS ON SPECIFIC
ISSUES DISCUSSED, DEFERRING SUCH COMMENTS TO MOT SHIPPING
BUREAU DIRECTOR GENRAL SAHARA (WHO HELD SEPARATE MEETING
WITH PRESS).

3. IN ARTICLE BASED ON SAHARA' S MEETING WITH PRESS,
S AND T NEWS SAID SAHARA INDICATED FMC DELEGATION HAD
SHOWN SPECIAL INTEREST IN JAPANESE PORT PROBLEMS.
SAHARA QUOTED TO EFFECT THAT FMC OFFICALS QTE MADE
NO REFERENCE WHATEVER UNQTE TO LINKAGE OF QTE ALLEGED
DISCRIMINATION UNQTE AGAINST US SHIPPING LINES IN
JAPANESE PORTS WITH FMC ACTION ON FURTHER EXTENSION
OF SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT AMONG JAPANESE LINES.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT FMC DELEGATION HAD INDICATED THAT COMMISSION WOULD BE READY TO REVIEW SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT ANY TIME QTE IF THINGS GO AGAINST ITS WILL. UNQTE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO SAHARA: (A) OVERTONNAGE PROBLEM: ISSUE NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, BUT MEASURES TO COPE WITH OUT-SIDERS' ACTIVITIES WERE TAKEN UP. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT DUAL RATE SYSTEM IS ONE MEANS FOR COUNTERING ACTIVITIES OF NON- CONFERENCE LINES, BUT US SIDE DOUBTED EFFECTIVNESS OF 9.5 PERCENT SPREAD BETWEEN CONTRACT AND NONCONTRACT RATES. MOT SAID TO BE PREPARED TO REVIEW SITUATION IF AND WHEN 9.5 PERCENT SPREAD TURNS OUT TO BE INEFFECTIVE. (B) MAL-PRACTICES: FMC SAID TO HAVE PROMISED TO SUPPLY MOT WITH INFORMATION ON SELF- PLLICING FORMULA BEING ADOPTED BY TRANSATLANTIC CONFERNCES. MOT AGREED TO STUDY MATTER ON BASIS INFO TO BE SUPPLIED. (C) POOLING ARRANGEMENT: BOTH SIDES AGREED TO WATCH ATTEMHZS BEING MADE BY TRANSAPACIFIC CONFERENCES TO ORGANIZE A FREIGHT POOLING ARRANGEMENT. (D) QTE TOURING CONTAINERS UNQTE: MOT SAID YAMASHITA-SHINNIHON WOULD BE ONLY JAPANESE LINE TO CONTINUE SERVICE JAPAN/ US ROUTE VIA AUSTRALIA, AND THAT Y- S WOULD CHARGE SAME RATES AS THOSE ADOPTED BY U/ AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE LINES. FMC WAS SAID TO HAVE DOUBTED THAT TRANSPORTATION OF SUCH CARGOES BY SHIPS OPERATED UNDER SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT IS LEGALLY APPROPRIATE. (E) OI CONTAINER TERMINAL: MOT OBTAINED FMC' S QTE UNDERSTANDING UNQTE THAT SITES ACQUIRED BY JAPANESE LINES OPPOSITE THEIR OI CONTAINER TERMINALS WILL NOT BE USED FOR TIME BEING FOR DISTRIBUTION CENTERS AND THAT AMERICAN LINES WILL BE CONSLUTED BY JAPANESE LINES ON LATTER' S PLANS TO BUILD CONTAINER FREIGHT STATIONS INSTEAD. (F) PORT PRACTICS: FMC (1) NOTED THAT SOME FOREIGN LINES SUCH AS FESCO AND ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTIAINER LINE ARE BEING GRANTED USE OF PUBLIC BERTHS AT RELATIVELY LOW CHARGES WHILE U. S. LINES ARE USING HIGHER COST PORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BERTHS: (2) QUESTIONED EXISTING RESTRAINTS ON CON-TAINER TERMINAL SUBLEASING: (3) QUESTIONDK AGREE-MENTS (BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND DOCKWORKERS) ON

SUSPENSION OF DOCK WORK ON SUNDAYS AND DURING LATE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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NIGHT HOURS: (4) QUESTIONED WHY AMERICAN LINES CANNOT USE OWN SUBSIDIARIES AS TERMINAL OPERATORS AS JAPANESE LINES ALLOWEDTO DO; AND (5) QUESTIONED WHY TWO TUGBOATS ARE REQUIRED TO ACCOMPANY LASH BARGES INPORT.

3. ARTICLE SAID SAHARA EXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTING GOJ FRL WORKING OUT SOLUTIONS TO ALL OF FOREGOING ISSUES RAISED BY FMC, BUT PROMISED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET U. S. WISHES AS FAR AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. SAHARA ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING FMC RECOGNIZED MOT' S SINCERITY AND PROMISED TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE UP JAPANESE REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT.

4. JAPAN TIMES (JT) AND JAPAN MARITIME GAZETTE CARRIED SIMILAR BUT LESS DETAILED, ARTICLES. JT NOTED THAT TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO HOLD NEXT MEETING DURING AUTUMN IN U. S.
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EO Systematic Review
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